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Client Reference: T4IA-01S1205-1



PATENT APPLICATION

4
12/2003

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re the Application of

HIROSHI WATANABE, et al.

Group Art Unit: 3653

Application No.: 10/023,744

Examiner: DANIEL K. SCHLAK

Filed: December 21, 2001

Confirmation No.: 5292

For: PROCESSING APPARATUS OF SHEETS

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Mail Stop Patent Applications
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

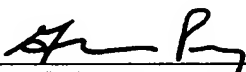
Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the reference(s) listed on the attached PTO-1449. Unless otherwise indicated herein, one copy of each reference is attached. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the reference(s) be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date AND after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance.

The references were cited in a counterpart foreign application in the attached Austrian Communication (Search Report) issued October 13, 2003, not more than three months ago. See that communication for information on each document. An English language version of the foreign search report and English-language Abstracts are attached for the Examiner's information.

Since German Publication No. 2 168 687 A and Japanese Publication No. 62-215459 listed in the European Search Report have been cited by the Examiner in the Office Action dated October 8, 2003, a copy of those documents are not enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,



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FORM PTO (modified)
To: U.S. Department of Commerce
(PW FORM 1449)
Patent and Trademark Office



Atty.
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0290567

T4IA-01S1205-1

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

Applicant: HIROSHI WATANABE et al.

Appln. No.: 10/023,744

Filing Date: December 21, 2001

Date: November 26, 2003

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of

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Examiner: D. SCHLAK

Group Art Unit: 3653

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner's Initials*	Document Number	Date MM/YYYY	Name (Family Name of First Inventor)	Class	Sub Class	Filing Date (if appropriate)
	AR					
	BR					
	CR					
	DR					
	ER					
	FR					
	GR					
	HR					
	IR					
	JR					
	KR					
	LR					
	MR					
	NR					

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	Document Number	Date MM/YYYY	Country	Inventor Name	English Abstract		Translation Readily Available	
					Enclosed	No	Enclose	No
OR	1 167 259 A2	01/2002	Europe	Steinkogier et al.		X		X
PR	0 647 583 A2	09/1994	Europe	Nukada et al.	X		X	
QR	59-153756	09/1984	Japan	Kinoshita	X			X
RR								
SR								
TR								
UR								
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OTHER (Including in this order Author, Title, Periodical Name, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

YR				
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Examiner

Date Considered:

*EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP § 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.